GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4935
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
MOBILE SERVICE IN GUJARAT
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mobile telephone service has not been provided/introduced in several parts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the districts in the State where mobile service has been approved;

(d) the time by when the remaining parts of the State are likely to be provided with this facility; and

(e) the quantum of funds allocated for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) Sir, as per terms and conditions of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) and Unified Access Service Licence, the service providers of Gujarat Telecom Circle Service Area are required to provide coverage as per the details below:-

``atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of Licence. The licensee shall also be permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. Coverage of a DHQs/town would mean that at least 90% of the area bounded by the Municipal limits should get the required street as well as in-building coverage. The District Headquarters shall be taken as on the effective date of Licence. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas.`

The Licensed Service Providers have stated that mobile telephone service is available in several parts of Gujarat. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has provided mobile services in 238 cities/towns including 25 District Headquarters in addition to 5000 KMs Highway routes and 500 KMs of Railway routes in the state of Gujarat. In addition to the above, other private operators have also provided mobile services in several parts of Gujarat.

(d) & (e) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has planned mobile network expansion to cover additional cities/towns up to Tehsil headquarters of Gujarat State. The Network expansion of BSNL during 2005-2006 is estimated to cost of Rs. 816.63 Crores.